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GETTING BACK TO BASICS

# The Physicians' Guide to MONTANA

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THOMAS L. JUDGE  
GOVERNOR

State of Montana  
Office of The Governor  
Helena 59601

This booklet, published by the Montana State Comprehensive Health Planning Office, is an effort to minimize some of the problems and frustrations communities experience in their efforts to recruit physicians.

As you will ascertain from the contents, Montana is a very large, sparsely populated, rural state. In states such as ours, health care is one of the most pressing concerns. Time and distance often separate isolated segments of the population from access to quality health care. This is why small communities like those represented in this publication are constantly seeking doctors, dentists, and allied personnel to come and set up a practice.

If you are a physician who might be planning to relocate, I encourage you to consider these Montana communities which are presently recruiting as excellent opportunities to establish a family practice or similar career.

Montana is one of the last of the great Western states to which the migration from urban America has yet to arrive. Its mountains, national forests and parks, rivers, and wide grasslands provide an unparalleled opportunity for hunting, fishing, camping, skiing and many other outdoor activities.

As Governor of the State of Montana, I sincerely urge you to give every consideration to Montana as an excellent opportunity for you and your family to pursue a truly quality lifestyle.

  
THOMAS L. JUDGE  
Governor

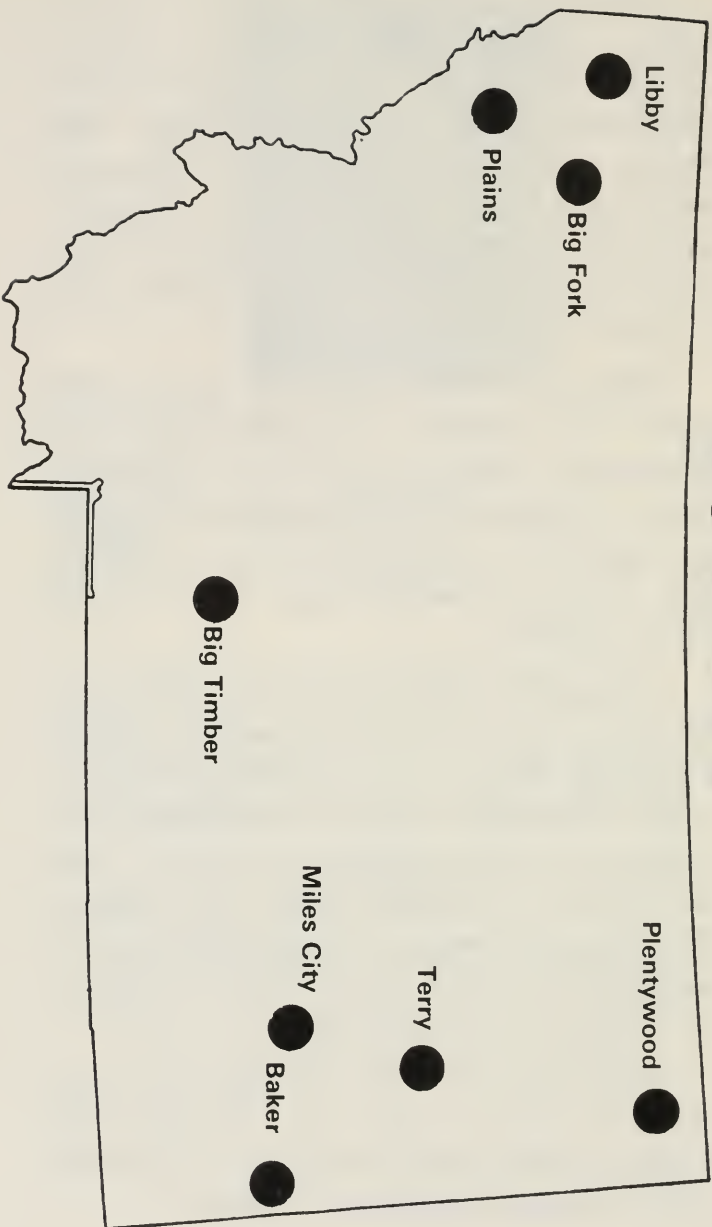
Montana, the nation's fourth largest state, extends this invitation to all of those in the medical profession who are interested in getting back to basics — the basics of satisfaction, community involvement, personal contact, a rural atmosphere close to nature, and an unhurried life-style are all available to you in Montana.

Perhaps most important is the basic need for qualified medical personnel. Everyday, indeed every minute, there is a need somewhere in Montana for medical assistance and guidance in whichever field of medicine you have chosen for a practice.

To outline that need and elicit your interest, the Comprehensive Health Planning Division of the State Department of Health and Environmental Sciences and the citizens of these communities have assembled this booklet. We sincerely hope that you may find the basics presented herein to be those for which you are searching.

Somewhere there is a doctor for each of our underserved communities. You may be one of those doctors; one of these communities may also be yours.

# MONTANA



# Plains                      NORTHWESTERN

Family Practitioners (2) or  
General Practitioners (2)

Plains is a community of approximately 9,000 in Northwestern Montana. The primary occupations and industries include logging and ranching. Prosperous, Plains has been growing by approximately 30% per annum.

Support facilities include: fully-equipped general hospital, 22 hospital beds, intensive care unit, emergency room with X-ray department, and 10 nursing home beds.

Estimated income for physician in private practice is \$45,000 and up. The hospital will guarantee office and rent until gross revenue is \$5,000 a month for a period of one year. Space provided for physician is adjacent to hospital. Living quarters are also available.

Located 78 miles from the population center of Missoula, Plains is only 180 miles from Spokane, Washington.

For more information, contact:

Mr. Grant M. Winn  
Administrator  
Clark Fork Valley Hospital  
P.O. Box 768  
Kruger Road  
Plains, Montana    59859  
(406) 826-3601

# **NORTHWESTERN      Big Fork**

## **Family Practice**

Located on the north shore of scenic Flat-head Lake, Big Fork is situated in one of the most breathtaking areas in Montana. Less than an hour from Glacier National park, Big Fork is surrounded by National Forest and the Mission and Swan Mountain ranges.

The community of approximately 4,000 has for use a two-year-old medical office equipped with: 4 examining rooms, one lab, large emergency room, X-ray room with adjacent dark-room for processing, two offices and a reception room. Equipment is not included.

The building was constructed for two doctors, and the first level contains a 3-bedroom apartment. The building sits on a two-acre site.

Hospital facilities are located in Kalispell approximately 20 miles away. Unequaled opportunity for persons interested in outdoor activities. Camping, fishing, boating, backpacking, climbing, and skiing abound.

For more information contact:

Douglas C. Smith, D.M.D.  
Box 266  
Big Fork, Montana    59911  
(406) 837-4806



# Libby

# NORTHWESTERN

General Practice, Pediatrics,  
Family Practice, Obstetrics

Located in the spectacular Northwestern part of Montana, Libby borders on the Kootenai National Forest and the Cabinet Mountains Wilderness.

Libby has a population of approximately 3,286. The area's primary industry is logging. Only 25 miles from Libby Dam and 90-mile Lake Koocanusa recreation area.

Support facilities include a 34-bed hospital equipped with EKG, 2-bed coronary unit, and 2 X-ray rooms.

Office space and equipment are available as are living quarters. Libby is located less than 200 miles from Spokane, Washington. Salary of approximately \$40-\$50,000.

Outdoor recreational opportunities include fishing, hiking, hunting, boating, camping, and skiing.

For more information contact:

Mr. Robert L. Aronson  
Administrator  
St. John's Lutheran Hospital  
Libby, Montana 59923  
(406) 293-4186

# **SOUTH CENTRAL Big Timber**

## **Family Practice**

An unsurpassable opportunity for above physician exists in Big Timber. The community of approximately 1,795 has a surrounding area of about 3,000 population.

Big Timber is very capable of supporting a physician and has been actively recruiting. An approximate salary range would be \$30-50,000.

A new, modern clinic is under construction. Fully-equipped, the clinic will be able to accommodate two physicians and two dentists and is located contiguous to the hospital.

Excellent recreational opportunities exist as Big Timber is located 1½ hours from Yellowstone National Park, 1 hour from Bozeman, and 1½ hours from Billings, Montana's largest city.

The primary industry in the area is agriculture.

As one of the citizens has stated, "I've lived in London, Paris, and the West Coast and there is nowhere I would rather live than in Big Timber . . ."

For more information contact:

Mr. Donald Powell

President

First State Bank

Big Timber, Montana 59011

(406) 932-2141



## **Miles City**

## **EASTERN**

Family Practice, Pediatrics, Orthopedics,  
Urology, OB/GYN, Ophthalmology.

Miles City with a population of approximately 9,000, is the population center of South-eastern Montana. The primary industries in the area are ranching and farming. Historically, the area was the scene of a number of the 19th Century Indian Wars, including the noted encounters of Gen. George A. Custer.

Support facilities include: a 120-bed hospital with fully-equipped surgical suite, modern intensive care unit which is also fully equipped, and X-ray department.

Office space and equipment available. Arrangements can be made with surrounding clinic and hospital for continuing education and exchange with colleagues serving in solo areas. Guarantee of \$30-40,000 salary.

For the physician and family there are a variety of civic organizations, clubs, and seasonal sports activities.

For further information contact:

G. Douglas Atkinson  
Executive Director  
Holy Rosary Hospital  
Miles City, Montana 59301  
(406) 232-2540

# EASTERN

# Plentywood

## Family Practice or General Practice

Above physicians are needed in a community of approximately 2,381 population. Office space and equipment are available with the present physician.

Support facilities include: 26 hospital beds, 33 nursing home beds, intensive care unit, surgical suite and X-ray department.

Plentywood is able to support a physician. Living quarters are available. The primary industry in the area is farming. Outdoor activities include hunting, fishing, golfing, and swimming.

Plentywood is located approximately 25 miles from the North Dakota and Canadian borders.

For more information contact:

Mrs. Berle McClean, R.N.

Administrator

Sheridan Memorial Hospital

Plentywood, Montana 59254

(406) 765-1420

# **Terry**

# **EASTERN**

## **Family Practice & General Practice**

Excellent opportunity for physicians. Terry is located right by the Yellowstone River and has a new hospital of modern design and construction including 20 beds, all modern facilities and equipment, 2-bed coronary intensive care unit complete with G.E. monitors, defibrillator, etc., modern surgery suite, X-ray with fluoroscope, fully-equipped laboratory, and pharmacy.

The county clinic is located adjacent to the hospital and is completely modern, fully equipped, and air-conditioned.

Extremely scenic and exceptionally friendly community. There are adequate schools, recreational activities, and the best hunting left in the United States micro-therm weather area.

Net income \$25-45,000; benefit of guarantee can be worked out for continuation of medical education. Consulting and specialty services available. An interesting challenge to any doctor. The community needs a doctor and is willing to meet any reasonable request.

For more information contact:

Bert Lee

Administrator

Prairie Community Hospital

Terry, Montana 59349

(406) 637-5511

## EASTERN

## Baker

### Family Practice and/or General Practice

Two practitioners are needed in a community of approximately 2,584. Office space and equipment available with the present physician.

Other support facilities include: <sup>16</sup>~~10~~ hospital beds, 32 nursing home beds, 3-bed intensive care unit which is fully equipped, surgical suite, X-ray department.

Net salary for the first year can be expected to range between \$30-50,000. Residents are able and willing to make provisions for a physician to stay in the community. A physician willing to come and set up a practice will be awarded a \$5,000 incentive. The community would also be willing to help students who would agree to come and practice. Community has excellent schools and churches.

The primary industries in the area are oil, ranching, and wheat farming.

For more information contact:

T. Sylvester  
Administrator  
Fallon Memorial Hospital  
P.O. Box 820  
Baker, Montana 59313

Like many other rural states, Montana faces the problem of maldistribution of its health manpower. While Montana's most populous counties — Yellowstone (south-central), Cascade (north-central), and Missoula (northwestern) — account for less than one-third of the state's total population, these counties contain 49% of the total number of physicians in the state, 42% of the dentists, 41% of the registered nurses, and 50% of the sanitarians.

In addition, there are six counties in Montana comprising a total population of 9,765 which have no physicians; and there are 13 counties with a total population of 30,057 which have no dentists. Montana has a physician/population ratio of 1/978 as compared to a national average of 1/619.

Approaches being undertaken to alleviate the maldistribution problem include efforts to attract health manpower to scarcity areas by providing incentives and other attractions, the provision of back-up personnel and facilities, and increasing community support through health education and community involvement in health projects.

Montana's citizens are committed to solving problems which hinder accessibility and availability to adequate health care. This manual is one effort in that direction.



**Clark Fork Valley in Northwestern Montana**



**Mule deer near Miles City**



**Sunset over the Eastern Plains**